



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SMUGGLER WHO LED ALIEN TO HIS DEATH SENTENCED TO 4 1/3 YEARS

Phoenix, Arizona – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that Sebastian Arista-Butron, of Mexico was sentenced to 51 months in prison after pleading guilty to Bringing in of an Illegal Alien Resulting in Death, in violation of 8 U.S.C. §1324(a)(1)(A)(i) and 1324(a)(1)(B)(iv), and Bringing in of an Illegal Alien for Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain, in violation of 8 U.S.C. §1324(a)(2)(B)(ii).

On May 31, 2002, Sebastian Arista-Butron recruited a group of illegal aliens in Mexico City, Mexico and arranged for their travel to the border town of Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico. In Sasabe, his group met with another group of illegal aliens. Arista-Butron guided 16 aliens into the United States through the desert on foot. Water became scarce, and one of the aliens, Rene Rodriguez-Ramirez, died of exposure to the heat. Arista-Butron was going to be paid to guide the aliens to a location within the United States. The aliens paid \$1200 to \$1400 each to be smuggled into the United States.

On June 26, 2002, a seven count indictment was filed against Sebastian Arista-Butron in the U.S. District Court in Tucson, Arizona, charging Bringing in of Illegal Alien Resulting in Death, Bringing in of

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Illegal Aliens Placing a Life in Jeopardy, and Bringing in of Illegal Aliens for Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain. On March 27, 2003, Arista-Butron pleaded guilty to counts one and five of the indictment pursuant to a written plea agreement with a range of 46-57 months.

On June 6, 2003, Sebastian Arista-Butron received a sentence of 51 months for count one, and 36 months for count two, to be served concurrently. United States District Judge Raner C. Collins presided over the sentencing hearing.

The sentencing hearing was handled by Julia A. Maldonado Soto, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1021-TUC-RCC
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